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INFORMATION,  
PREVENTION AND  
TREATMENT REFERRALS, AND  
OTHER RESOURCES ARE  
AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY  
FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
INFORMATION AND  
EDUCATION HELPLINE/  
THE MEDICAL FOUNDATION.

800-327-5050  
(TOLL-FREE; MULTI-LINGUAL)  
TTY: 617-536-5872  
WWW.HELPLINE-ONLINE.COM

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
AND STATISTICS ARE  
AVAILABLE FROM:

- Massachusetts Youth Health Survey, October 2002  
[www.state.ma.us/dph/bsas](http://www.state.ma.us/dph/bsas)
- Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey  
[www.doe.mass.edu/hssss/yrbs/01/results.pdf](http://www.doe.mass.edu/hssss/yrbs/01/results.pdf)
- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University  
[www.casacolumbia.org](http://www.casacolumbia.org)
- Monitoring the Future, Overview of Key Findings 2002  
[www.monitoringthefuture.org](http://www.monitoringthefuture.org)
- Office of National Drug Control Policy  
[www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov)
- Parents. The Anti Drug  
[www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com)
- Partnership for a Drug-Free America  
[www.drugfreeamerica.org](http://www.drugfreeamerica.org)
- U. S. Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.health.org](http://www.health.org)

*Be the first to* **TALK WITH YOUR PRE-TEEN**  
*about ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, and other DRUGS*

**INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES**

▼  
**MARIJUANA**

► **WHAT IS IT?**

- Dried leaves and flowers of the hemp plant
- Looks like green, brown, or gray mixture of dried, shredded leaves and stems
- Can be smoked in cigarettes, cigars, or pipes
- Also called pot, weed, reefer, joint, blunt, dope, grass, herb

► **STATISTICS**

- The most commonly used illicit (illegal) drug among young people.
- 12% of Massachusetts young people have used marijuana for the first time before age 13.
- Nearly 8% of Massachusetts middle school students currently use marijuana.
- More teens enter treatment for marijuana abuse than for all other illicit drugs combined.

► **RISKS**

- Marijuana grown today is chemically stronger than in the past.
- Interferes with memory, learning, concentration, problem-solving, school performance
- Increased heart rate, panic attacks
- Cough, lung damage, cancer
- Slowed reactions, distorted perception, injury
- May contain other dangerous substances
- Addiction

► **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

- Cigarettes, cigars, small pipe, lighters, matches, rolling papers, bobby pins
- Water pipe or bong (a tube, soda can, or other container partially filled with liquid, with smaller tubes extending)
- Smoky smell in air, on clothing or hair
- Loss of motivation, confusion, red eyes, increased appetite

CLICK  
HERE  
FOR

**SOURCES  
OF  
STATISTICS**